

In the context of the Dutch Annual Linguistics Day (*‘De Grote Taaldag’*) on 31 January 2020 an international symposium is organised in celebration of the inaugural lecture of Jan D. ten Thije at Utrecht University.

Registration (incl. lunch) via the official website of [de Grote Taaldag](#).

You can register as Member of Anéla with discount (25 €).

International symposium “Intercultural Communication als *Mediation*”

Programme

10.30 – 15.10 hrs, Sweelinck Zaal, Drift 21 Utrecht

09.30 – 10.30	Regular Programme <i>De Grote Taaldag</i>
10.30 -10.45	Break / Start of the symposium
10.45 – 11.10	Debbie Cole – Mediating and Mediatizing Linguistic Diversity
11.15- 11.40	Kristin Bührig – Interpreting and intercultural mediation in German hospitals
11.45 – 12.10	Roos Beerkens - Enhancing intercultural communication in organization: insights from project advisers
12.15 – 14.00	Lunch and alumni networking Posters Intercultural consultancy – ICC alumni meeting
14.15 – 14.40	Kevin De Coninck & Mieke Smits - How to make the use of Dutch and many other languages as accessible and effective as possible for individuals and societies
14.45 – 15.10	Marie-Therese Claes - Intercultural training: Are we creating biased association?
16.15 – 17.00	Inaugural Lecture (Oratie) J.D. ten Thije – Interculturele Communicatie als <i>mediation</i> <i>Auditorium (Aula) of the Academiegebouw, Domplein 29, Utrecht</i>

International symposium Intercultural Communication as Mediation

In the context of the inaugural lecture of Jan ten Thije an international seminar is organised on intercultural mediation. The interdisciplinary field of intercultural communication comprises five approaches (e.g. contrastive analyses, analyses of cultural representation, interaction analyses, linguistic diversity analyses, and intercultural competences, ten Thije 2016). The concept of mediation creates interesting interfaces between these approaches. This international symposium illustrates various theoretical frameworks and areas of application that are created through intercultural mediation (e.g. media analyses, interpretation in health care, intercultural consultancy, language policy and intercultural training).

Mediating and Mediatizing Linguistic Diversity

Debbie Cole (Utrecht)

This talk provides a brief overview of key concepts related to mediation and mediatization from research in the field of linguistic anthropology. The focus will be on the many and varied ways that language is used and identities performed in moment to moment interactions and how this variation comes to be organized into unified, undifferentiated categories which can then be labeled as 'diversity' and valued in economic terms. Comparisons will be drawn across research in different geographic and institutionalized contexts with an eye to understanding the historical processes that have enabled and continue to support the contemporary mediatization of languages and identities with respect to changing and variable notions of 'diversity'.

- Cole, D. & Pellicer, R. (2012). Uptake (un)limited: The mediatization of register shifting in U.S. public discourse. *Language in Society* 41(4): 449-470.
- Cole, D. (2019). The emergent selectivity of semiotically playful utterances. in *The Discursive Organization of Contact and Boundaries*. Z. Goebel, D. Cole & H. Manns (eds.) New York: Routledge.

Interpreting and intercultural mediation in German hospitals

Kristin Bührig (Hamburg)

The contribution will deal with interpreting in different medial settings. The data come from German hospitals where usually family members, friends and staff members are asked to interpret in case that the patients only have a "poor" command of German. With regard to these conditions of interpreting I will raise the question in how far and in which way the interpreters' relationship to the patient and the medical staff will have an impact on the process of 'intercultural mediation' (gen Thie to appear). The analyses will be done within the framework of 'Functional pragmatics' (cf. e.g. Redder 2008) and research findings on the character of intercultural communication (cf. Bührig & ten Thije 2006, Rehbein 2012).

- Bührig, K. & Thije, J.D. ten (Eds.) (2006). *Beyond Misunderstanding. Linguistic Analyses of Intercultural Communication*. Amsterdam: Benjamin's
- Redder, A. (2008). Functional Pragmatics. In: Antos, G. & Ventola, E. (Hrsg.) *Interpersonal Communication*. (Handbook of Applied Linguistics, Vol 2). Berlin/New York: de Gruyter, S. 133-178
- Rehbein, J. (2012). Intercultural communication. In *Encyclopedia of Applied Linguistics*. Wiley
- Thije, J.D. ten (to appear). What is intercultural Communication? *The Cambridge Handbook of Intercultural Communication*. Edited by G. Rings and S. Rasinger

Enhancing intercultural communication in organization: insights from project advisers

Roos Beerkens (Utrecht)

In the context of globalization and internationalization, intercultural communication has become an important element in many fields of academic study, of which intercultural consultancy is among the most socially relevant, gaining attention over the past years. In our view, intercultural consultancy is concerned with analysis and advice with respect to intercultural encounters from a situated view on culture. This means that research and interventions that aim to facilitate intercultural practices need to take into account the social, cultural, historical and economic contexts to which the participants in the exchange belong. In other words: in our view there is a need to analyse each case on a micro level. This view on culture and intercultural communication is increasingly supported by academic literature; multicultural teams are in essence fruitful in most settings, as long as the members know how to get the most out of their diversity. In the book (Beerkens et al. 2020) that I would like to present during this talk, we look at the way in which experts in intercultural communication can contribute concretely to intercultural understanding within the confines of an organization.

- Beerkens, R., Le Pichon-Vorstman, E., Supheert, R., & Thije, J.D. ten (eds.). (in print) *Enhancing intercultural communication in organization: insights from project advisers*. New York and London: Routledge.

How to make the use of Dutch and many other languages as accessible and effective as possible for individuals and societies

Kevin De Coninck & Mieke Smits (Den Haag: Nederlandse Taalunie)

As the intergovernmental organisation for the Dutch language of the Netherlands, Belgium and Suriname, the Taalunie stimulates ways of making the use of Dutch and many other languages as accessible and effective as possible for individuals and societies. We believe that multilingualism is an asset for both individuals and societies, and Dutch and many other languages can prosper in real multilingual contexts. The use of Lingua Receptiva (Dutch 'luistertaal') is one of the ways to get the most out of all the language skills individuals and societies possess. That is why we have written a position paper about it in response to the Skills Agenda of the European Commission (Ten Thije et al 2016), we have financed more research about it at Dutch and Belgian universities, with a focus on the use of it in Construction, Health Care and Education (Ten Thije et al 2019), and we would like to support some pilot projects with it in neighbouring regions, for example in the north of France and the west of Flanders and in the east of the Netherlands and the west of Germany.

- Thije, J.D. ten, Gooskens, C., Daems, F., Cornips, L., & Smits, M. (2016). *Luistertaal. Position paper inzake de Skills Agenda van de Europese Commissie*, Den Haag: Nederlandse Taalunie.
- Thije, J.D. ten, Gulikers, E., & Schoutsen, K. (2019). *Het gebruik van Luistertaal in de praktijk. Een onderzoek naar meertaligheid in de bouw, de gezondheidszorg en het onderwijs in Nederland en Vlaanderen*. Utrecht: Universiteit Utrecht

Intercultural training: Are we creating biased association?

Marie – Therese Claes (Brussels)

The paper examines the cognitive biases that are unconsciously used in cultural trainings, and the impact they can have on creating and reinforcing stereotypes and simplifications. We will examine what kind of cross-cultural trainings are offered by the largest cross-cultural training companies, and the diverging results of these trainings of expatriates and students. We then argue that cross-cultural trainings in the popular positivist approaches lead to cognitive traps or biases such as priming and the confirmation bias. It is not surprising that the range of failed expat assignments fluctuates between 10 and 50 percent depending on the country. Finally, we will conclude with practical implications for cross-cultural training. For example, the Intercultural Desk pad for SAS (Severs et al 2017) exemplifies a holistic approach towards intercultural competence that promotes cultural intelligence.

- Severs, R., Schoutsen, K., & Thije, J.D. ten (2017). Guided Awareness - An Intercultural Desk pad for SAS. Working on my intercultural competences and awareness: reflection on 'rich points', Utrecht: Utrecht University.